REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-13, 15 and 16 currently remain in the application. Claims 2, 6 and 14 have been cancelled.

In said Final Office Action dated February 9, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-5, 7-13, 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Nakagawa in view of Bennett and Fine, stating that the earlier submitted argument by applicant was not persuasive. The purpose of this REMARKS is to persuade the Examiner that the additional consideration of Fine does not make the present invention obvious.

The Examiner is requested to reconsider the meaning of "correlation data" such as those data said to be stored in the "correlation data memory" of claim 1. Consider two memory devices A and B, memory A storing data A1, A2, etc. and memory B storing data B1, B2, etc. These data are not totally independent but are correlated. Let us assume that A1 corresponds to B1, A2 corresponds to B2, etc. although one of the data stored in memory A may correspond to a plurality of data in memory B, and vice versa. If this correlation is stored in another memory ("Memory C"), this is what is herein referred to as the correlation data memory because it stores information about correlation between two sets of data.

Fine does <u>not</u> show such correlation data memory. The Examiner describes Fine as showing "correlation data means" (whatever this expression is intended to mean by the Examiner). The Examiner points to column 18 at lines 30+ of Fine and writes correctly that "Fine discloses that there is memory containing desired data to be printed" but a memory that may happen to (temporarily) hold desired data to be printed is not a correlation memory and "desired data to be printed" are not correlation data.

To explain the last sentence more in detail by way of the example of memories A and B above, if data items A1 and A2 are to be printed as data corresponding to data item B1 of memory B and these data items A1 and A2 are temporarily stored in a certain memory

2

(memory D), this memory (memory D) cannot be said to be storing the correlation between data A1, A2, A3, A4, ... and data B1, B2, B3, ...   What are stored in memory D are data that correlated to a particularly selected one (B1) of the many data B1, B2, B3, B4, etc. Correlation data and correlated data are different; correlation data are data that shows what correlation exists and correlated data means particular one (or ones) of the sea of data that happens (or happen) to correlate to a specified data item or condition.

What Fine shows is a ring counter or a pointer (column 18, lines 30-31) that serves to pick and choose which of the data should be printed by examining each of the data. There is no one memory device where such correlation data are stored such that Fine's ring counter or pointer can turn to in order to obtain what correlation exists between the two sets of data. Without a correlation data memory, if data item in aforementioned memory A corresponding to a particular data item (such as B1) stored in memory B is desired to be identified, each of the data stored in memory A will have to be scanned (because there may be more than one of the data stored in memory A that may correspond to any particular one of the data in memory B.

The Examiner also pointed to column 17 at lines 55+ of Fine but this part of Fine mentions only a ROM and a RAM neither of which is characterized as storing corresponding relationship between data in one memory and those in another memory. The Examiner is requested in particular to read lines 66-68 where the RAM, which was pointed out by the Examiner, is merely described as storing data on several hundred different commodities. There is no statement that any correlation data are stored anywhere.

The Examiner is further requested to read the last three lines of claim 1 where the "correlation data" are said to be "between said print data and said packaging conditions". The expression "said print data" is defined in the two lines immediately above as the data stored in the print data memory and the expression "said packaging conditions" is similarly defined as the data stored in the packaging condition memory. In other words, the correlation data are data showing the correlation of the entirety of the print data and the entirety of the packaging conditions, not merely the relationship between one (or a small portion of) the print data and one (or a small portion of) of the packaging conditions. The correlation data memory of claim 1 stores information on such correlation between the
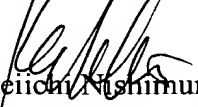
3

entirety of the print data and the entirety of the packaging conditions. There is no other way the language of claim 1 can be properly interpreted.

With the claim language thus properly understood, the Examiner is believed to conclude that Fine indeed does not describe the kind of correlation data memory explained in claim 1.

All the other rejected claims are dependent claims and hence should also be found allowable.

In summary, applicant believes that the application has been in condition for allowance and such an action at an early date is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Keiichi Nishimura
Registration No. 29,093

April 8, 2004
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP
P.O. Box 778
Berkeley, CA 94704-0778
Telephone: (510) 843-6200
Telefax: (510) 843-6203